

Proclamation

by Governor Earl Ray Tomblin

- WHEREAS,** suicide is the 10th leading cause of death in the United States and the 3rd leading cause of death among individuals between the ages of 15 and 24; and
- WHEREAS,** suicide is now the 12th leading cause of death in the State of West Virginia and the 2nd leading cause of death among people from the age of 15 to 24 in West Virginia; and
- WHEREAS,** adults in West Virginia reported a higher than average prevalence of having serious thoughts of suicide in the past year; and,
- WHEREAS,** for all ages combined, one person dies from suicide for every 20 attempts nationally, yet for people over the age of 65, there is one completed suicide for every 4 attempts; and
- WHEREAS,** in the United States, one person dies from suicide every 14.2 minutes; and
- WHEREAS,** it is estimated that 4.73 million people in the United States have lost a loved one to suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** 50.8% of people who die by suicide use a firearm, and guns stored in the home are used for suicide 40 times more often than for self-protection; and
- WHEREAS,** the overall suicide rate in our country increased in 2009, the suicide rate for those 15-24 years old has more than doubled since the mid-1950s, and the suicide rate remains highest for adults 75 years of age and older; and
- WHEREAS,** the stigma associated with mental illness and suicide discourages persons at risk for suicide from seeking life-saving help and further traumatizes those who have lost a loved one to suicide; and
- WHEREAS,** statewide suicide prevention efforts should be developed and encouraged to the maximum extent possible; and
- WHEREAS,** organizations such as the West Virginia Council for the Prevention of Suicide, the Adolescent Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Program, and regional prevention coalitions are dedicated to reducing the frequency of suicide attempts and deaths and the pain of those affected by suicides of loved ones through educational programs, research projects, intervention services, and bereavement services.

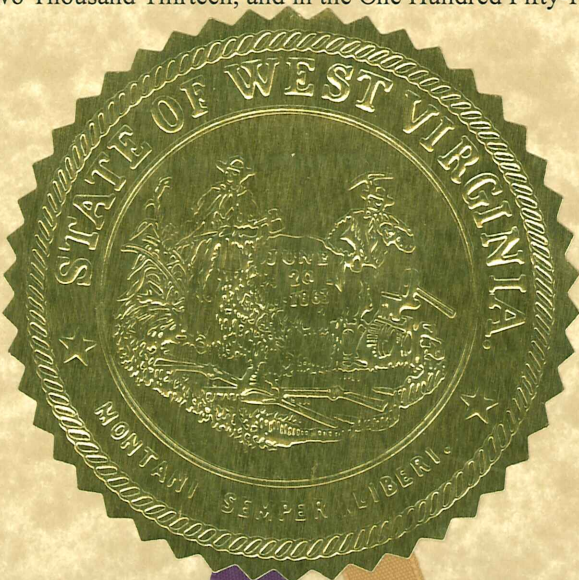
Now, Therefore, Be it resolved that I, Earl Ray Tomblin, Governor of the Great State of West Virginia, recognize that suicide is a West Virginia public health problem, and suicide prevention is a statewide responsibility, and do hereby proclaim *September 8-14, 2013*, as:

Suicide Prevention Week

in the Mountain State and encourage all citizens to recognize the important services that these organizations provide.

In Witness Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the State of West Virginia to be affixed.

Done at the Capitol, City of Charleston, State of West Virginia, this the Tenth day of September, in the year of our Lord, Two Thousand Thirteen, and in the One Hundred Fifty-First year of the State.



Earl Ray Tomblin
Earl Ray Tomblin
Governor

By the Governor:

Natalie E. Tennant
Natalie E. Tennant
Secretary of State